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LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the "Dynamic Reply 2000", the military exercise the Kosovo Force (KFOR)/North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are planning for Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, at the end of this month through the beginning of April.

Notwithstanding its billing as a routine military undertaking, the very name of the exercise implies a dress rehearsal of a possible reply to the challenges that KFOR/NATO may face in Kosovo and Metohija and beyond. The exercise is expected to be held without prior approval by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, of which Kosovo and Metohija is an integral part, and, as such, constitutes a provocation, a threat and an escalation of pressure on the eve of the first anniversary of the NATO aggression. It is contrary to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and the customary conduct of United Nations peacekeeping forces, as well as the Charter of the United Nations and the basic documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Alongside the plans to construct United States military bases in Kosovo and Metohija, it aims at transforming this Serbian province into a testing ground for the NATO military and is a function of promoting ethnic Albanian terrorism and separatism. The exercise would in fact be a blatant demonstration of force and would make no contribution to regional peace and stability.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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